



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Cypress
National Preserve

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Big Cypress National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Big Cypress National Preserve Reopens to Off-Road Vehicles

Big Cypress National Preserve reopened to off-road vehicles at sunrise, August 14. This date marked the end of the annual 60-day seasonal closure of the Preserve that began June 15. All campgrounds, with the exception of Midway, will be open beginning August 30 in anticipation of the upcoming archery season. Monument campground has remained open throughout the year.

Off-road vehicle operators will find a change in the access point for the area north of Monument. The access is now located on the north side of U.S. Highway 41 at Monroe Station. This access point replaces the access from Monument Campground. Parking is located in the lot of Monroe Station with backcountry permits and information available at the bulletin board in the parking area.

"This change in our access to the old Sandy Road area of the Preserve, known to some as the Monument Road or Buckskin Road, provides for a quieter campground experience and minimizes resource damage to the area", said Superintendent John Donahue.

The access point change and the annual seasonal closure are part of a continuing effort to implement the Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan of 2000.

As we move into the fall season, off-road vehicle operators are reminded to obtain all necessary ORV permits at the visitor center and to ride safely and responsibly. "We look forward to another successful hunting season," said Superintendent Donahue. He also expressed gratitude to all of the off-road vehicle operators who have made a concerted effort to follow all of the rules.

Questions about the off-road vehicle permit system, campground openings and other general information may be obtained by calling the Big Cypress National Preserve visitor center at 239-695-1201.

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